

Appl. No. : 10/688,646
Filed : October 17, 2003

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

- 1-8. (Canceled)
9. (Currently amended) An inflatable connection rod, comprising:
(a) a proximal end comprising a self-sealing valve;
(b) a distal end comprising a tip; and
(c) a compliant, inflatable balloon between the proximal end and the distal end;
and
a hardenable media for inflating the inflatable balloon;
wherein, when said hardenable media is hardened, the inflatable connection rod
forms a rigid structure.
10. (Original) The inflatable connection rod of Claim 9, where the balloon comprises thin, reinforcing wires.
- 11-35. (Canceled)
36. (New) The inflatable connection rod of Claim 9, wherein when the hardenable media hardens, the connection rod is sufficiently rigid to fix an unstable vertebra to a stable vertebra.
37. (New) The inflatable connection rod of Claim 9, wherein the hardenable media comprises a rapid setting liquid polymer.
38. (New) The inflatable connection rod of Claim 37, wherein the rapid setting liquid polymer is light activated.
39. (New) The inflatable connection rod of Claim 9, wherein the tip is metallic.
40. (New) The inflatable connection rod of Claim 9, wherein the inflatable balloon comprises a braided polymer.